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## Impartial Study On Smoking

It may be that upcoming scientific study of the effects of smoking and air pollution on health will result, finally, in a firm determination of the results of smoking on the human person. It is an independent government study sponsored by the United States Public Health Service, with more than a half dozen organizations cooperating.

It is a broad field that will be studied. Most interest will be focused on the effect of tobacco smoke on the human body, although the effect of air pollution from industrial smoke and automobile exhaust, on the health of mankind will be thoroughly considered, too.

That the study will be a broad one, and impartial is seen in the participation of agencies arranging for the study. They consist of representatives of federal agencies, medical groups and the tobacco industry. In spite of all the adverse findings based on the effect of tobacco on

humans, the tobacco industry is entering into the study with zest, apparently. It is evident that the tobacco people have no qualms about the results — they do not believe that the outcome will be deleterious to their business.

The first phase of this broad study will be to define the nature and magnitude of health hazards. The second will be to prepare recommendations for action. If the first phase solidly reveals any health hazards from tobacco, automotive and industrial exhausts, with recommendations for action, improvement to the human body may very well follow.

Of particular interest will be the effect of tobacco smoking on the human body. No one denies the harmful consequences of industrial smoke and automotive exhausts on humankind. But the consequences of tobacco smoke on the human system remain a moot question. Perhaps this study will reach some definite conclusion.

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## Goals of Air Pollution Drive Under Scrutiny

Public health experts have known for a long time that polluted air has bad effects on the human system. Numerous ailments are thought to be caused or aggravated by the breathing of contaminated air, including air loaded with cigarette smoke. In some instances the harm is directly traceable to air pollution; in others the experts suspect a connection but have not yet pinned it down.

There is need for a definite study on the extent to which smoking and air pollution endanger health. It is good to know that just such a study will soon be undertaken by a committee of scientists under the auspices of the Public Health Service and various private groups. The committee's mandate will be to define the hazards and to make recommendations for corrective action.

THIS APPROACH was agreed to by representatives of Federal agencies, medical groups and the tobacco industry. Together they compiled a list of 150 scientists from which a 12-man committee will be drawn. The committee's first business will be to make a thoroughgoing report on how smoking and air pollution relate to respiratory ailments, disorders of the heart and circulatory system, and cancer. Then will

come the even harder task of deciding what ought to be done about the situation.

This whole program is greatly in the public interest. Though the pros and cons of smoking relative to lung cancer have captured most of the public attention in this regard, air pollution from industry and automobile exhausts also is of growing importance.

SOME MACHINERY already exists for control of air pollution. For example, the Smoke Commission in Evansville has done a considerable amount of enforcement, and provided some technical assistance to industrial plants.

No air pollution campaign can be completely effective, though, until we know what we are fighting and why. When specific irritants are identified and their effect on the human body established, we can do a much better job of imposing controls.